

GIANTS MAY VET REACH THE FIRST DIVISION.

John M. Ward Says That Sixth Place Is Well Within Their Grasp.

Sensational Plays and Brilliant Victories Are Now the Order of the Day.

HAS GREAT HOPES FOR NEXT SEASON.

The Ex-Captain of the New Yorks Thinks the Team Should Finish Very Near the Top of the League.

The season of 1896, which, until a few weeks ago, was so full of disappointment, is yet going to hold some pleasant memories for local followers of the game. The New Yorks have climbed into seventh place, and, what seemed impossible three weeks ago, now actually have a chance for sixth. They are playing a quality of ball that would credit to any team in the league, not excepting even the champion Baltimore team.

There is a snap and life to their play nowadays that was not to be seen earlier in the season. Sitting as an onlooker one can easily see the change. The men appear more confident and determined, and there is an apparent unity of feeling and effort that had been sadly lacking. It is not, especially, that they hit, or field, or run bases better. The records may even show that the team had a higher average in some or all of these respects two months ago than it has now. Van Halten, Tiersan and others, perhaps, stood higher in hitting than they do to-day. Yet now the team where formerly it could not. And why? Simply because now the players, as a result of the prevailing good feeling, are able to hit and field and run at the right times, and all pull together for a common purpose.

And this serves to emphasize and exemplify what was pointed out in this column several weeks ago, at the time Beckley and Joyce were secured and the latter was placed in control. I then took the chance of predicting that the team would win from that time forth because, as it seemed to me, the correct combination had been formed. Beckley and Joyce added precisely the needed element of "ginger" that had been wanting and the change in management gave the men an opportunity to get into the game, to feel themselves were only too eager to embrace. So they got a start and found out what they could do, and now no team in the league is playing a stronger game.

Some of their up hill fights and finishes recently have been really sensational. Up to the time of the game with the Athletics over two or three rallies during the entire season on the Polo Grounds, whereas the past two weeks alone have seen a half dozen or more. It illustrates the difference between mechanical ball playing and play that is inspired. The former will show itself as well on the face of the individual records as the latter, in fact often better, for the reason that players who are playing for themselves make fewer errors, and they do not win. People wonder why it is so. They say, "Our team is strong individually. The men are all good players, why do we not win?" Solely because the proper feeling is not there. The players are individually good, but they are not right. Otherwise they cannot win, even though they may lead the league in hitting. They may be making fewer errors, but they are not much more upon this point, but it is done for a distinct purpose.

In my opinion, most of our misadventures during the past two years have been due to a misunderstanding of these very matters, and a misconception of their bearing upon the work of the individual. Freedman came into baseball a new man, with very little practical knowledge of the business. He started out with a lot of business affairs. But unfortunately he did not know where to stop, and he was evidently badly misled.

In the first place he made a great mistake in attempting to join with his manager and captain in the management of the playing department. This would not have been so disastrous had he better understood the business, but he did not. He was a hand and falling to understand why the team did not win, he seemed to conclude that the players were the cause of it, and he did not make it to win, but he did exactly the wrong thing. He instituted certain rules and regulations, which, restricting the freedom and independence of the players, made them feel dissatisfied. He also interfered with the business of the team, and the life they lead and the business they follow. He made them feel that they were not to be trusted, and he made them feel that they were not to be trusted. He made them feel that they were not to be trusted, and he made them feel that they were not to be trusted.

But there are many indications that the experience through which the club is now passing will not be without valuable results. If it is so, the team will be a better team than it has been for some time. Freedman to keep hands off the playing department absolutely and trust that all to his manager and captain, will come much nearer the prize than he has.

The team as it stands to-day, while perhaps not able to win first place, would easily finish very near the top of the league. There is no reason to doubt that the team will be a better team than it has been for some time.

JOHN M. WARD.

League Games Yesterday.

At Cincinnati. Cincinnati, Sept. 13.—The game was one of the worst of the season, both sides making errors at critical stages. Griffith pitched good ball, and had been given proper support would have won his game. In only one inning were the Chicagoans able to touch their bats. Dwyer's batting was the feature of the game, he making four hits out of ten in a three-inning, out of four times at bat. Attendance, 9,000.

At Louisville. Louisville, Ky., Sept. 13.—St. Louis could not hit. Traver pitched very well, and the St. Louis team was unable to do much in winning. Attendance, 4,500.

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League Clubs' Standing.

The Valencian's Big Chivalry.

PENNANT IS NEWARK'S.

After an Unusually Exciting Finish This New Jersey Club Heads the Atlantic League Clubs.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 13.—"Newark takes the pennant and the championship of the Atlantic League," announced President Sam Crane before 5,000 people on the Shooting Park grounds this afternoon after the Athletics had been beaten two straight by the Newark. He then congratulated Manager Tom Burns, and the great crowd cheered loud enough to be heard a mile. The defeat of Hartford by Paterson clinched the championship. It is the first time in the history of baseball that the championship was narrowed down to a battle on the last day of the season.

In the first game with the Athletics to-day the fielding of both teams was excellent, but the Athletics had the edge on the grounds, but in the second game the fielding was phenomenal on the part of Newark, and Paterson plucked out twenty-one hits in one, two, three, or four. The scores:

First Game	R.H.E.
Newark..... 2 5 4 0 0 1 0 1-13 15	
Athletics..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0 9	
Batteries—Gavin and Rothfus; Cahn and Schaub.	

Second Game	R.H.E.
Newark..... 4 1 0 0 1 0 1-11 1	
Athletics..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0 7	
Batteries—Gavin and Rothfus; Werkes and Fox.	

Atlantic League Clubs' Standing.

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Paterson..... 35 34 69 100	
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